

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is made in response to the Official Action dated October 7, 2005. Therein, the Examiner objected to the Abstract. A substitute Abstract is provided herewith.

Claim 1 was objected to for informalities in the claim language. Those formalities have been amended, so that now the stent is not claimed "in the form of a longitudinal axis."

Claims 1-10 were amended in view of Vrba, U.S. Patent No. 6,409,755. With the amendments to claim 1, it is earnestly submitted that the rejection over Vrba is overcome. That is, each of the spokes now claimed has a closed perimeter and a series of struts with an opening therebetween. This is nowhere disclosed in Vrba, or for that reference the Lam reference used against claims 10-7. With the closed perimeter of the struts contained in the present set of claims, it is respectfully submitted that their expansion provides not only greater coverage of the arterial walls at the ostium, but greater support as compared to the "tabs" of Lam or the more "open" struts of Vrba. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that with the amendment claims 1 through 10 are allowable over Vrba either under the anticipation statute, 35 USC §102, or the obviousness statute, 35 USC §103.

Claims 10 through 17 were rejected under either 35 USC §102 or 35 USC §103 using the Lam reference, U.S. Patent No. 5,607,444. Similarly, with the amendment made herein, it is earnestly submitted that Lam no longer identically discloses nor renders obvious the current claims 10-17. For the same reasons as offered with the traversal of the rejection are claims 1-10

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using the Vrba reference, it is also respectfully submitted that claims 1-10 are in condition for allowance.

A notice indicating allowability of claims 1-17 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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